

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-42 (Cancelled).

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of light generators;
an image transfer mechanism;
a plurality of image forming cartridges corresponding to the plurality of light generators, each image forming cartridge having a photosensitive drum having an exposure position and a transfer position, the exposure position facing a corresponding light generator and the transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position; and
a housing including respective slots corresponding to the light generators, the slots positioned to allow light beams emitted from said light generators to pass therethrough onto the respective exposure positions, the housing configured to house the plurality of light generators one above another.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the plurality of light generators are positioned to emit light through the respective slots to the image forming cartridges.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the plurality of image forming cartridges respectively correspond on a one-to-one basis with the plurality of light generators.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the plurality of light generators emit light in a generally horizontal direction to a
respective one of said plurality of image forming cartridges.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the plurality of image forming cartridges develop therein a latent image on the
photoconductive photosensitive drum thereof formed by the respective light generator.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the plurality of image forming cartridges each contain a different color toner.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 43, the image
transfer mechanism comprising:
a vertically arranged belt arranged to convey a medium to the transfer positions of
each of the plurality of image forming cartridges in order to form an image on the medium.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 43, wherein:
the housing is configured to house the plurality of light generators without housing
the image forming cartridges.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): An apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of light generating means for generating light beams;
an image transfer means;
a plurality of image forming means for forming images thereon, the plurality of image
forming means corresponding to the plurality of light generating means, each image forming

means having a photosensitive drum having an exposure position and a transfer position, the exposure position facing a corresponding light generator and the transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position; and

a housing means for housing elements of said apparatus, said housing means including respective slots corresponding to the light generating means, the slots positioned to allow the light beams emitted from said light generating means to pass therethrough onto the respective exposure positions, the housing means configured to house the plurality of light generating means one above another.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:
the plurality of light generating means are positioned to emit light through the respective slots to the image forming means.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:
the plurality of image forming means respectively correspond on a one-to-one basis with the plurality of light generating means.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:
the plurality of light generating means emit light in a generally horizontal direction to a respective one of said plurality of image forming means.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:
the plurality of image forming means develop therein a latent image on the photoconductive photosensitive drum thereof formed by the respective light generating means.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:
the plurality of image forming means each contain a different color toner.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus of claim 51, the image transfer means comprising:

a vertically arranged belt arranged to convey a medium to the transfer positions of each of the plurality of image forming ~~cartridges~~-means in order to form an image on the medium.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 51, wherein:
the housing means is configured to house the plurality of light generating means without housing the image forming means.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
an apparatus body;
an image transfer element;
a plurality of optical writing devices;
a plurality of image forming cartridges corresponding to the plurality of optical writing devices, arranged one above another, and removably mounted to said apparatus body, each including at least one photoconductive element having an exposure position and a transfer position, the exposure position facing a corresponding optical writing device, and the transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position;
a vertical stay disposed between the optical writing devices and the image forming cartridges;

a plurality of image forming cartridge supporting members corresponding to each of the image forming cartridges, and being attached to at least one of the vertical stay and the apparatus body; and

a plurality of optical writing device supporting members corresponding to each of the optical writing devices, and being attached to at least one of the vertical stay and the apparatus body.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein:
the image forming cartridge supporting members, the vertical stay, the optical writing device supporting members, and the apparatus body comprise a single structural body.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein:
said vertical stay extends from a top to a bottom of the apparatus body.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein:
said optical writing devices emit a plurality of light beams toward said photoconductive elements through slots included in the vertical stay.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 59, wherein:
said optical writing devices are spaced from said photoconductive elements by a predetermined distance.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): An image forming cartridge, comprising:
a photosensitive drum having an exposure position and a transfer position, the exposure position arranged to align with a corresponding light generator through a slot in a

housing, the transfer position being substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position, wherein

 said image forming cartridge is configured to be arranged above a second image forming cartridge having a second exposure position and a second transfer position, the second exposure position arranged to align with a corresponding second light generator through a second slot in said housing, the second transfer position being substantially diametrically opposed to the second exposure position.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): The image forming cartridge of claim 64, wherein:
 said image forming cartridge is configured to be arranged relative to said corresponding light generator so that light emitted by said corresponding light generator passes in a generally horizontal direction.

Claim 66 (Currently Amended): The image forming cartridge of claim 64, wherein:
 said photoconductive-photosensitive drum is configured to form a latent image therein.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): The image forming cartridge of claim 64, wherein:
the image forming cartridge is configured to contain a color toner.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): An image forming cartridge, comprising:
means for receiving and transferring an image, said means for receiving and transferring including an exposure position and a transfer position, the exposure position arranged to align with a corresponding light generator through a slot in a housing, the transfer position being substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position, wherein

said means for receiving and transferring is configured to be arranged above a second means for receiving and transferring, said second means for transferring having a second exposure position and a second transfer position, the second exposure position arranged to align with a corresponding second light generator through a second slot in said housing, the second transfer position being substantially diametrically opposed to the second exposure position.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented). A method for forming an image, comprising:

projecting a first image onto an exposure position of a first photosensitive drum in a first image forming cartridge, the exposure position arranged to align with a corresponding light generator through a first slot in a housing;

transferring said first image from a transfer position of the first photosensitive drum, the transfer position of the first photosensitive drum being substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position of the first photosensitive drum;

projecting a second image onto an exposure position of a second photosensitive drum in a first image forming cartridge, the exposure position arranged to align with a corresponding light generator through a second slot in said housing; and

transferring said first image from a transfer position of the first photosensitive drum, the transfer position of the second photosensitive drum being substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position of the second photosensitive drum;

wherein said first image forming cartridge is configured to be arranged above a second image forming cartridge.

Claim 70. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

a light generator within said housing; and
a plurality of photo sensitive drums, each of said plurality of photo sensitive drums having an exposure position and a transfer position, and each of said plurality of photo sensitive drums configured to receive a light beam from said light generator on a respective exposure position through a corresponding slot in said housing.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 70, wherein:
the light generator emits light in a generally horizontal direction to a respective one of said plurality of photo sensitive drums.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 70, wherein:
the plurality of photo sensitive drums each corresponds to a different color toner.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 70, further comprising:

an image transfer mechanism.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 73, wherein the image transfer mechanism comprises:

a vertically arranged belt configured to convey a medium to the transfer position of each of the plurality of photo sensitive drums in order to form an image on the medium.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus of claim 70, further comprising:

a second light generator within said housing; and

a second plurality of photo sensitive drums, each of said second plurality of photo sensitive drums having an exposure position and a transfer position, and each of said second plurality of photo sensitive drums configured to receive a light beam from said second light generator on a respective exposure position through a corresponding slot in said housing.

Claim 76. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

a plurality of means, within said housing, for transmitting an image via a light beam ~~through a slot in said housing;~~

a plurality of means for receiving and transferring said image, each of said plurality of means for receiving and transferring including an exposure position and a transfer position; and

a plurality of means to align a corresponding exposure position with said light beam ~~through a corresponding slot in said housing.~~

Claim 77. (Currently Amended) A method for forming an image, comprising:

transmitting an image via a light beam ~~through a slot in~~within a housing;

receiving said image onto an exposure position of each of a plurality of photosensitive drums;

transferring said image from a transfer position of each of said plurality of photosensitive drums; and

aligning the a corresponding exposure position with said light beam ~~through a~~ corresponding slot in said housing.

Claim 78 (Previously Presented): An image forming cartridge configured to be installed in an image forming apparatus, said image forming apparatus including a housing and a light generator within said housing, said image forming cartridge comprising:

a photo sensitive drum having an exposure position and a transfer position, said image forming cartridge configured to align the exposure position with a light beam emitted by the light generator through a slot in said housing.

Claim 79 (Currently Amended): The image forming cartridge of claim 78, wherein:
said photocensitive-photosensitive drum is configured to form a latent image therein.

Claim 80 (Previously Presented): The image forming cartridge of claim 78, wherein:
the image forming cartridge is configured to contain a color toner.

Claim 81 (Currently Amended): An image forming cartridge configured to be installed in an image forming apparatus, said image forming apparatus including a housing and a light generator within said housing, said image forming cartridge comprising:
means for receiving and transferring an image, said means for receiving and transferring including an exposure position and a transfer position; and
means to align the exposure position with a light beam emitted by said light generator through said-a slot in said housing.

Claim 82 (Currently Amended): A method for forming an image, comprising:
receiving an image onto an exposure position of a photosensitive drum of an image forming cartridge;

Application No. 10/682,189
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2005

transferring said image from a transfer position of said photosensitive drum; and
aligning the exposure position with a light beam emitted by a light generator in a
housing through a slot in said housing.